



## State of Utah

### Department of Natural Resources

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

A. JOEL FRANDBSEN  
*State Forester/  
Division Director*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
*Governor*

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Lieutenant Governor*

#### NEWS RELEASE

September 13, 2005

Contact: Jim Springer (801) 538-5324  
Gary Cornell (435) 259-3766

### FOREST WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES PROTECTING WATER QUALITY IN SOUTHEAST UTAH

Field reviews conducted on 25 timber harvest operations throughout Carbon, Emery, Grand and San Juan counties indicate Forest Water Quality Guidelines implemented in 2001 are effectively protecting water quality.

“Harvest operations that use ‘best management practices,’ as outlined in Utah’s Forest Water Quality Guidelines, are having a positive impact on water quality,” says Gary Cornell, area manager for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. “We’ve been busy for the last several years providing educational and technical assistance to landowners and forest product operators and now we’re seeing the results.”

The Utah Legislature enacted the Forest Practices Act in 2001. The key elements of the law are a requirement that operators register, that they provide notification of intent to conduct operations, that Forest Water Quality Guidelines be developed and promoted, and that technical assistance be provided operators and private forest landowners in their use. The intent of the law is to preserve water quality and soil stability, prevent fire hazard and insect infestation, minimize the waste of timber resources, and protect forest regeneration and production.

“The effectiveness of the Forest Water Quality Guidelines has been traced to several factors,” adds Cornell. “The first is the notification of intent to conduct operations and that allows us the opportunity to provide educational material directly to landowners and operators before any work is begun.”

A second factor has been the educational effort. Utah State University has conducted workshops and mailed newsletters to private landowners. And a third factor has particularly affected Carbon and Emery counties, both of which established a timber harvest ordinance that requires the use of “best management practices” as outlined in the Forest Water Quality Guidelines. They also employ a forester who administers the ordinance.

###